FBIS DAILY REPORT

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FURTHER ACTIVITIES OF SOVIET DELEGATION REPORTED

Support on Falklands

PY170348 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0258 GMT 17 Aug 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Aug (NA) -- The USSR will support Argentina's diplomatic actions designed to have the upcoming UN General Assembly compel Great Britain to comply with the resolutions on decolonization of the Malvinas Islands and on acknowledgement of Argentina's rights over the archipelago, it was officially reported today.

In a communique released close to midnight, San Martin Palace reported that some members of the Soviet delegation visiting Argentina have stated that the USSR will give its "warm support" to the Argentine Government's diplomatic actions at the UN General Assembly meeting to be held in September.

The communique reports on the meetings held here by the Soviet delegation -- which is led by Vladimir Fedorovich Petrovskiy of the Soviet Foreign Ministry -- with Argentine Foreign Ministry officials, including Foreign Minister Juan Ramon Aguirre Lanari and Deputy Foreign Minister Enrique Lupiz.

Official Meetings

PY162212 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1609 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Aug (DYN) -- The Soviet Government delegation visiting our country discussed bilateral problems today, including economic subjects, with Argentine Foreign Ministry officials. The Soviet delegation will return to Moscow tomorrow after consultations in Buenos Aires on the next UN General Assembly session.

The second and last working meeting was held this morning. The meeting was attended by Vladimir Petrovskiy, collegium member of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, and by Vadim Chekmazov, deputy chief of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Latin America Department. Petrovskiy and Chekmazov have been in Buenos Aires since Wednesday, 11 August.

The Soviet delegation has held working meetings with officials of San Martin Palace's foreign policy department within the framework of the yearly consultations prior to the UN General Assembly sessions due to begin in New York next month.

The Soviet delegation will leave tomorrow after fulfilling its mission in Buenos Aires.

CHILE TO SUPPORT ARGENTINA ON FALKLANDS AT UN

PY161357 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1325 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Aug (DYN) — Chilean Ambassador Sergio Jarpa Reyes informed President Reynaldo Bignone that the Chilean Government has decided to co-sponsor the motion which Argentina will make at the upcoming UN General Assembly requesting recognition of Argentine sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands.

The Chilean diplomat talked with the president at the Casa Rosada for about an hour this morning and after the meeting it was officially announced that Chile had decided to support the Argentine proposal as co-sponsor.

LAMI DOZO BIDS FAREWELL TO AIR FORCE PERSONNEL

PY161844 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Text] Lt Gen Basilio Lami Dozo has said farewell to the members of the Buenos Aires and Quilmes Air Force garrisons as he is leaving his post tomorrow. The ceremony took place at the heliport of the Condor building shortly after 1200. It was also attended by the civilian personnel working at the Air Force headquarters.

GOVERNMENT TO DECIDE ON SALARIES NEXT WEEK

PY161839 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Text of communique released by Presidential Spokesman Eduardo Maschwitz at Government House the morning of 16 August 1982]

[Text] In view of the diverse rumors regarding the price and salary policy, the national government clarifies:

1. The topic is subject to constant analysis by the pertinent bodies.

2. As an indispensable part of that analysis, consultations are being held and opinions requested from leaders of the various sectors of the nation, particularly the management and labor sectors.

3. During the meetings and consultations held thus far, the leaders have expressed their points of view with remarkable objectivity and restraint regarding the subject and the solutions which each sector regards as the most appropriate.

4. This behavior does not appear to be in agreement with the public atmosphere of confusion regarding this subject, a fact which the government is observing with concern.

5. The solutions that will ultimately be adopted will encompass the opinions obtained to the largest degree possible, harmoniously matching them with the true possibilities of attaining effectively positive results, particularly for those sectors which are in the most critical situation.

6. Pressure and conditioning exercised, whether by management or labor to try and benefit a certain sector, in whole or in part, will far from contribute to the best and promptest solution of the problem, but rather will upset the solution to the detriment of all.

7. In the course of this week, the consultations and analysis on the various levels will conclude and the national government will make a decision on the subject next week.

PARTIES RESPOND TO REGIME'S DIALOGUE OFFER

FY170318 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Aug 82

[Text] The political dialogue aimed at expediting the democratization process of the country will start on Tuesday, 17 August. Government representatives will talk with political parties; the Bolivian Labor Federation, COB; the National Federation of Private Businessmen; and the Bolivian National Peasant Workers Federation, CNTCB.

According to information released by Interior Ministry spokesmen, due to their importance, the meetings are going to be headed by President Guido Vildoso Calderon with the presence of members of the junta of commanders and Interior Minister Edgar Rojas Ruiz. The meetings will start in Government House at 0900. It has also been reported that the meeting on Wednesday will be held in the interior minister's office at 0900.

Leaders of political parties have been invited to designate their representatives to the National Electoral Court and departmental courts. The political leaders who have been invited are: Victor Paz Estenssoro, Hernan Siles Zuazo and Hugo Banzer Suarez, but they are still not in the capital. Victor Paz Estenssoro, head of the Historic National Revolutionary Movement, MNRH, through its offiical spokesman, (Raul Perez), said that he is willing to take part in the political dialogue sponsored by the national government. However, he said he will not be able to attend Tuesday's meeting due to circumstances beyond his control, but will attend the meeting on Thursday.

Hugo Banzer Suarez, head of the Nationalist Democratic Action, ADN, said he fully agrees to meet with the military regime to discuss the country's political and economic situation. Guillermo Fortun, one of the principle ADN leaders, said that Banzer will attend the meeting with President Guido Vildoso because he believes that this is one of the most appropriate ways for finding solutions to the problems affecting the country. Banzer Suarez is currently in Santa Cruz and is expected to arrive in La Paz in the next few hours.

(Mario Velarde Dorado), secretary general of the Leftist National Revolutionary Movement, MNRI, said in a communique released to the news media that Hernan Siles Zuazo, head of the MNRI and president of the Democratic and Popular Union, UDP, has not accepted the invitation extended by the government through the Bolivian ambassador in Lima. (Velarde) said that the government knows Siles Zuazo's beliefs and position regarding the country's urgent need for holding general elections as soon as possible. The communique says that the government knows that the greatest obstacle to holding clean elections lies in the lack of credibility of the regime, in the existence of armed groups acting with impunity in the service of repression and the delaying tactics of those who are in control of the nation, a situation which has created a profound erosion and discredit of the military institutions, particularly due to the military's determination to act in violation of the constitution and the laws of the republic.

The communique adds that Hernan Siles Zuazo had to decline the invitation to attend the presidential inauguration in the Dominican Republic because his presence in Lima, where he maintains a permanent office, is necessary to finish reviewing his party's economic and political plan, a plan which he is soon going to deliver to the nation as a serious proposal for resolving the economic, social, political, moral and institutional crisis affecting Bolivia. In conclusion, the communique says that the MNRI rejects the spirit of defeat and skepticism of some regressive sectors. Looking to the future, the MNRI has given instructions to its militants to put all their efforts into attaining peace and unity of the Bolivian people and the active mobilization of the popular masses who are going to make this country great through democracy and social justice.

The Movement of the Revolutionary Left, MIR, has also made a statement on the political dialogue sponsored by the military regime through the Interior Ministry. This party says that the government is using delaying tactics whose sole purpose is to extend the current government in power. This statement was made by Oscar Eid, one of the main MIR leaders, who said that the MIR supports immediate solutions to the political, economic and social crises which are undermining the Bolivian nation. In fact, the MIR, one of the important forces of the UDP, openly rejects the invitation of the Interior Ministry for talks aimed at finding solutions to the crisis affecting the Bolivian people on their various social levels.

LA PAZ PREFECT ABOLISHES TRANSPORT MONOPOLY

PY161400 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Excerpts] Despite the announcements consistently made over the state television channel that transport services would return to normal today, there was a total lack of buses early this morning and only a few taxis were working in downtown La Paz.

In turn, the departmental labor federation announced last Saturday that a 24-hour strike would be held today to protest the transport stoppage which began some time ago and to demand the abolishment of the transport monopolies. Therefore, today there will be no classes at the state schools in La Paz, while private schools will operate as usual.

The Prefecture of La Paz Department has published the text of a resolution whereby the transport system is declared to be a free enterprise in this department. The document says:

The prefecture, being the highest political and administrative authority of La Paz Department, resolves:

1. To declare the right to transport throughout the territory of La Paz Department to be a free and unrestricted right; thus authorizing the owners of vehicles to freely transport passengers and cargo with the sole condition that fares approved by the government be applied.

2. Any person who commits acts contrary to the freedom of transport will be punished according to the laws in force in the country.

La Paz, 14 August 1982, [Signed] Gen (Elias del Monte Pavon), prefect of the department.

Political Groups Involved

PY162027 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Text] Transport Minister Navy Capt Douglas Estrema Doiro has said that the transportation problem, which entered its 13th day today, could not be solved because of political interests. He claimed that (?those interests) are trying to create chaos, contrary to the objectivity and good will the government is trying to adopt through dialogue. Minister Estrema Doiro has reiterated his willingness to hold talks with a view towards reaching a solution to this situation, which is harming all citizens.

This morning, Estrema Doiro briefed President Guido Vildoso Calderone on the situation. The minister reported that political groups were detected among bus owners, and that such groups also seem to have appeared among the population. Estrema Doiro said: This apparently reveals that these excesses are being spurred by some groups. He stressed that this situation is raising natural fears among drivers who would like to go back to work.

Asked whether free transportation services [transporte libre] would be enforced, they replied that there is no decision on the matter yet, but that a group of drivers have been working and have thus partially solved the lack of transportation services.

EDCUATION MINISTER NAMED; NEW MINISTRY CREATED

PY170007 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Excerpts] Ester de Figueiredo Ferraz, former education secretary of Sao Paulo State, will be the first woman to hold a Cabinet post in Brazil.

Planalto Palace spokesman Carlos Atila said [begin Atila recording]: The president has asked Prof Ester de Figueiredo Ferraz to assume the post of education and culture minister and she has accepted. She will be the first woman to hold a Cabinet post in Brazil. [end recording]

Ester de Figueiredo Ferraz will replace Minister Rubem Ludwig, who will assume the post of chief of the military household, replacing Gen Danilo Venturini, who will be named special minister for land-related issues [ministro extraordinario para asuntos fundiarios] and secretary general of the National Security Council.

Outlining General Venturini's functions as special minister, Atila said [begin Atila recording]: The president also created the national land policy program, the basic objective of which will be to expedite and intensify the process of legalizing and regularizing land tenure in Brazil. [end recording]

PRESIDENT IRKED OVER LEAK OF CABINET CHANGE

PY162255 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 15 Aug 82 p 1

[Excerpt] President Figueiredo was extremely irritated, according to a leader of the Social Democratic Party; deeply offended, according to one of his aides, in the face of a news leak about the appointment of Gen Rubem Ludwig as chief of the military household replacing Gen Danilo Venturini, who will be appointed special minister at the National Security Council.

BRIEFS

JANUARY-JULY INFLATION RATE — Rio de Janeiro, 5 Aug (AFP) — The Getulio Vargas Foundation reported in Rio de Janeiro today that the inflation rate reached 55.9 percent in the first 7 months of 1982, and that it increased by 6.1 percent in July 1982. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1610 GMT 5 Aug 82 PY]

PETROBRAS PETROLEUM DISCOVERY -- The Brazilian Petroleum Corporation [Petrobras] has confirmed the existence of two more oilfields on the Rio de Janeiro coast. It is estimated that the first will produce 9,430 barrels daily, and the second 13,800 barrels daily. These two new wells will begin operations by next year, according to estimates. [Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 13 Aug 82 PY]

JANUARY-JUNE EXPORTS -- Rio de Janeiro, 5 Aug (AFP) -- The Foreign Trade Department (Cacex) of the Bank of Brazil reported here today that during the first six months of 1982 the following were exported: 89,094 tons of tobacco totalling $296,395,000, 27,948 tons of bananas amounting to $4,871,000 and 463,843 tons of ground and instant coffee totalling $1,017,752,000. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1121 GMT 5 Aug 82 PY]

JAPAN TRANSPORTATION PROJECT -- Transportation Minister Cloraldino Severo signed a $75 million contract in Tokyo on 10 August providing for $25 million in goods and equipment and a $75 million financing package for improving Rio de Janeiro's suburban railway system. [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 11 Aug 82 p 8 PY]

VENEZUELAN HEALTH AGREEMENT -- The second stage of the antipolio vaccination campaign of 1982 will be launched tomorrow. Health Minister Waldir Arcoverde will supervise the campaign in Brasilia accompanied by Venezuelan Health Minister Luis Gonzalez, who will watch the Brazilian method to combat this disease. The Venezuelan health minister will discuss an existing Brazilian-Venezuelan agreement for the treatment of diseases common in the Brazilian-Venezuelan border area. [Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2000 GMT 13 Aug 82 PY]

CONGRESS DISAGREES WITH U.S. SENATE RESOLUTION

FL122157 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2120 GMT 12 Aug 82

[Text] Mexico City, 12 Aug (NOTIMEX) -- Chamber of Deputies' leader Luis M. Farias has said that the U.S. Senate's authorization to use arms and allow a foreign presence in the Caribbean and Central America will increase tensions in the area. Farias, chairman of the standing committee, said that the Mexican congress publicly expressed its concern over the resolution which, instead of easing tensions, will only increase them.

The standing committee unanimously approved in today's session a proposal submitted by Farias expressing the Mexican congress' disagreement with the U.S. Senate's resolution.

Deputy Carlos Sanchez Cardenas of the Unified Socialist Party of Mexico said he rejected the stand taken by the U.S. Senate. For his part, Miguel Valadez Montoya of the Mexican Democratic Party said that the United States should treat all nations with dignity since they were seeking their own destiny. Cuauhtemoc Amezoca of the Popular Socialist Party noted that the present U.S. administration has assumed a more violent position than its predecessors.

COPPPAL Condemns U.S. Attitude

PA161747 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Text] At a meeting held in Mexico, the Permanent Conference of Latin American Political Parties, COPPPAL, headed by Pedro Ojeda Paullada condemned the U.S. Senate's approval of the Reagan administration's interventionist initiative.

The vote was unanimous against the U.S. Senate and the Reagan administration for their attempts to intervene in Central America and the Caribbean.

Meanwhile, the United Socialist Party of Mexico declared that it is imperative for the American nations to adopt policies against aggressions such as those being suffered by Nicaragua. (Marcos Leonel Quezada), director of the party's international affairs, pointed out in an official statement that the present aggressions against Nicaragua are designed to create the right conditions for the transnational capital to exert control in Latin America; therefore, Mexico must voice its decisive opposition to such actions.

SIDERMEX GRANTED CREDIT BY FRENCH BANKING SECTOR

FL161945 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2020 GMT 15 Aug 82

[Text] Mexico City, 15 Aug (NOTIMEX) -- The French banking sector has granted Mexico a credit amounting to 3.7 billion pesos to be used in expanding the production of steel, according to a communique issued by the Mexican Iron and Steel Industry (Sidermex). The credit will be used in the acquisition of an iron ore concentrator plant with a capacity of 3 million tons of steel per year, which will make it possible for Sidermex to supply the growing demand for roll steel required by the Mexican capital goods industry.

The loan was signed on 13 August by the Lazaro Cardenas-Las Truchas Iron and Steel Industry and a group of French banks, headed by the Paribas Bank and the French Foreign Trade Bank. Sidermex explained that the credit had been granted under preferential terms, setting the interest rate of 7.75 percent fixed annually for a period of 20 years, with a grace period of 7 years.

Signing for Sidermex was Arturo Garcia Torres, director for financing and control. Henry Tranvan Kha, minister counsellor for economic affairs of the French Embassy in Mexico, attended the signing ceremony.

ARIAS CRITICIZED FOR MEETING WITH PRESIDENT

PA161508 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 15 Aug 82 p 1A

["As of Today" column]

[Text] Ever since the National Guard violently broke into the republic's political life, overthrowing Dr Arnulfo Arias only 11 days after his inauguration, the legendary three-time president has been the symbol of opposition to a government system created by the military caste that usurped public power and maintains it against the will of the majority of Panamanians. His followers as well as many of those who opposed him during the 1968 elections gave up their patrimony, their freedom and even their lives in a long and bitter struggle to defend the will of the national majority that made him president. Although these big sacrifices have not attained the desired objective, they have served to keep alive the civic and democratic values of the Panamanians, in spite of government distortions, lies and slander.

But exhibiting unbelievable fickleness and forgetting 14 years of infamy, Dr Arias has compromised his political honor and prestige by having dinner with the persons responsible for continuation of a regime that has done so much serious harm to Panama. This unexplained event could have been seen as the beginning of a rectification had it been preceded by public statements in this regard; but since this is not the case, it apparently represents a new phase in the political maneuvers that the regime desperately has to make to survive its vices and errors. In any event, Dr Arias owes the country an explanation because it is not easy to understand how the victim can contribute to legalizing the crime of the culprit.

Issues Discussed

PA161604 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 15 Aug 82 pp 1, 6-B

[By Luis Restrepo Rosas]

[Text] The meeting held by President Ricardo de la Espriella, three-time former President Arnulfo Arias Madrid and Gen Ruben D. Paredes, commander in chief of the National Guard, can be described as very important for Panama's everyday life. The historic meeting was held within the framework of a private dinner given by the president, who took office on 31 July. The public has termed this meeting "the dinner of unity."

This meeting has had an impact both locally and abroad. Although no official report has been issued, LA REPUBLICA can inform the public about some of the most important topics analyzed during the meeting. After analyzing the country's situation, President de la Espriella, Arias Madrid and General Paredes agreed that now is the right moment to make a thorough analysis because the government already has the participation of a large opposition sector. As everybody knows, four of the opposition parties said that they agree with this participation, while the others are awaiting internal consultations in order to define their positions.

President de la Espriella and Arias Madrid said it is important for the National Guard to participate in the solution of the country's problems. These economic, political and social problems include unemployment, which is taking a very serious turn and calls for immediate solutions. For this purpose we must mobilize all productive, business, labor and agricultural sectors.

In addition, General Paredes noted that he was thankful for this opportunity to express National Guard support for President de la Espriella and to promote the right political climate to take appropriate and objective measures for the solution of problems within the government program to achieve the country's democratization. This program, which is already underway, was visualized by Gen Omar Torrijos Herrera and must culminate in the participation of all Panamanians in the 1984 elections. The essential plans to achieve this irreversible goal have been already established.

ASSEMBLY TO MEET TO ELECT NEW VICE PRESIDENT

PA161344 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2311 GMT 15 Aug 82

[Statement by Luis de Leon Arias, president of the National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives and chairman of the National Legislation Council; date not given -- recorded]

[Excerpt] The National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives should hold special meetings as a result of the convocation by the president of the republic and in accordance with the national Constitution. In coordination with the president, we are already deciding on the date for the special meeting, which could take place on either 25 or 27 August. The subjects to be discussed have been established. The first subject will be the election of the vice president of the republic.

This call for a special meeting will also serve to approve or disapprove the three -- two, rather -- magistrates of the Electoral Tribunal. The National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives appoints one magistrate. The Assembly should also approve or disapprove the appointment of the attorney general, the comptroller general and the deputy comptroller general.

HEAD OF ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL ANNOUNCES RESIGNATION

PA160504 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 14 Aug 82 pp 1-A, 8-A

[By Reinaldo Labastide]

[Excerpts] Luis Carlos Noriega, chairman of the Electoral Tribunal, announced his formal resignation from his high office yesterday for reasons of health and because his brother holds a high military post. Noriega said he first declared his wish to leave his post after 11 years of service in February as a result of his health.

He added that his decision is based both on medical reasons and on the fact that his brother, Col Manuel Antonio Noriega, is deputy chief of staff of the National Guard. He said that although there was no legal requirement that he not hold the post as a result of the relationship, he feels morally that he must resign. The tribunal chairman noted that he placed his post at the disposition of President Ricardo de la Espriella until he can be replaced by a distinguished member of the opposition.

The announcement was made in the presence of representatives of the Nationalist Republican Liberal Movement (Molirena) during a ceremony in which the resolution that accredits it as a legaliy registered party with more than 50,000 members was turned over to it. Molirena is the seventh party to be legally registered.

PROPOSED MEDIA BOARD WILL HAMPER FREE PRESS

PA161924 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 16 Aug 82 p 1A

["As of Today" column]

[Text] The Media Advisory Board [junta asesora de medios de comunicacion social] will probably be the most peculiar of the strange monsters created with "revolutionary" imagination, since it is the first case we know of in which the old principle that the function creates the organization is reversed. The board has in fact been formed without any legal instrument to regulate it, and its members have been appointed in the same way. No one seems to know what this unique organization is all about, and its members have had to name a commission to determine the objectives and functions of this strange entelechy.

This matter would be of little importance were it not for the grave risks involved in the functioning of an organization created to impose information policies on the media, disguising its censorship role under false moralizing intentions. The present members of the board have said that they have no intention of assuming the role of censors; however, the way the board was created, together with the fact that its functions have not been defined, gives us good reason to believe that freedom of the press -- already badly hampered by the arbitrary measures "suggested" by the National Guard commander -- is in danger. Under these circumstances, a media advisory board without defined functions and objectives could be used for anything and could end up being an obedient generator of new and more dangerous "suggestions."

ROYO QUESTIONED ON RESIGNATION, FOREIGN POLICY

PA161852 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1827 GMT 16 Aug 82

[By Jose Sobrino]

[Excerpts] New York, 16 Aug (EFE) -- Aristides Royo, former president of Panama and ambassador-designate to Spain, held an exclusive interview with EFE last night. In his first press interview since his surprise resignation as Panamanian chief of state, Royo said that in making his decision "it was a question of my health or the exercise of power, and I chose my health." The former president said that "the people most surprised were the National Guard: they never expected me to resign. The next most surprised was the vice president; he was surprised about the timing but not the cause of the resignation." "There was absolutely no motive except the strict care I must give my throat on doctor's orders," Royo emphasized.

He added that "there has also been speculation that my resignation was due to a problem of a change in direction from left to right, or from less conservative to more conservative. I also want to take this opportunity to deny that idea." "It has been said that the National Guard removed me because I obstructed its nonfulfullment of the democratic process, and there were other speculations," said Royo. He added to EFE that the democratization process in Panama "continues to advance" and that the president as well as the commander in chief of the National Guard have assured the country that there will be elections in 1984, "and that everything will be fulfilled."

Replying to a question concerning insistent speculation that his departure marks a turn to the right in Panama, especially regarding economic policy, he said that "if that were really the case, I cannot see why." He recalled that during his 46 months in the Presidency it was always Vice President -- now President -- Ricardo de la Espriella who as economist, banker and financier, "carried the weight of the economic decisions."

The former president expressed hope that the Panamanian Government's foreign policy will continue along the same general lines that he maintained.

Referring to remarks made by former Costa Rican President Rodrigo Carazo to the effect that no one resigns from the Presidency because of a sore throat and that what is happening is that democracy has still not gained sufficient strength in Central America, Royo told EFE that "I respect Carazo's opinion but I speak with my throat and not with his."

BRIEFS

NEW PANAMA CITY MAYOR -- Nilson Espino today was elected new mayor of Panama City by the overwhelming majority of Panama City representatives. He replaces Arnulfo Suarez, who presented his resignation to the Municipal Council last week. [Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 11 Aug 82 PA]

COSTA RICA

DEPUTY REPORTS ON SPLIT IN LEFTIST COALITION

PA152129 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 8 Aug 82 p 4A

[Victor Hugo Vargas article]

[Text] Sergio Erick Ardon, deputy of the People's Revolutionary Movement (MRP), has taken it upon himself to explain publicly what seemed obvious to observers: The United People's Coalition is no longer in existence. Ardon admitted that his party and the Popular Vanguard Party (PVP) have divergent positions on several issues.

The Costa Rican leftist parties participated as a coalition in the 7 February general elections. They called it the United People's Coalition and obtained four deputy seats, those of Eduardo Mora Valverde and Sergio Erick Ardon (San Jose), Arnoldo Ferreto (Puntarenas) and Freddy Menendez (Limon). Mora Valverde, Ferreto and Menendez are PVP members and Ardon is the MRP secretary general.

Ardon, admitting the split, said that the situation must be defined, "because it is obvious that this unclear situation is not good."

He also reported that the coalition's political commission, consisting of representatives of the PVP, the MRP and the Costa Rican Socialist Party (PSC), has not met since the elections.

This is the second division within the Costa Rican leftist parties in the last 2 months. Former Deputy Mario Devandas and 19 followers resigned from the PSC, alleging that the movement no longer satisfied the people's political needs.

They also said that the party's work methods reduced it to a circle of close friends. They criticized Alvaro Montero Mejia of the party's political commission, who "tried to secure a legislative seat for himself" through a pact that could not be fulfilled "due to Montero's own irresponsibility."

Ardon said that the only way they can achieve a reconciliation is with the participation of the PSC -- the other member of what used to be the United People's Coalition -- and of Rodrigo Gutierrez, who was that coalition's presidential candidate in the last elections.

Solution

According to Ardon, the situation would already have been solved if Montero Mejia of the PSC had a seat in the assembly.

As was reported in May, the PSC was entitled to one deputy in accordance with an internal pact. Mora Valverde resigned to make way for Montero Mejia, but his effort failed.

Ardon maintained that there has been no coordination in the assembly, and that this lack of coordination wouldn't happen if more forces were represented in the leftist faction.

Differences

According to Ardon, the PVP characterizes the National Liberation Party and the Unity Party as representatives of the bourgeoisie. We think that the interests of big capital prevail in these two parties, but at the same time there are representatives of the middle class in both parties. In this specific case, our opinions differ, he noted.

Regarding this, he seems to agree with Montero Mejia, of the PSC, who on 3 July in the wake of the resignation of Devandas and 19 other comrades, said that "the party believes that by maintaining our principles we should be able to attract other forces in addition to those of the left. We must add valuable individuals from the National Liberation Party, the Unity Party and the Christian Democratic Party," Montero said on that occasion.

Another example, Ardon said, is the issue of loans. The PVP does not support them, and indeed, firmly opposes them. However, we feel it is not possible to assume such a position, he emphasized. Regarding the loans, he added, we must always analyze what the money is for, who is lending it and under what conditions.

Another factor that Ardon feels differentiates the MRP from the PVP is that "we do not define ourselves as Marxist-Leninists."

When our talks with him reached this point, we asked him how they define international relations, dependence, subjection and coordination. He said: A country like ours must run itself with great political independence. "This is why we oppose nonalignment," he said. [as published]

He explained that we must not depend upon any of the great powers, regardless of their ideology. We must handle ourselves with independence, but we do believe in a bloc of Latin American nations. Regarding this, we have differences of form and substance with the PVP. "They are constantly aligned with the Soviet Union," Ardon said.

The differences have reached the extent where Ardon hardly speaks to Mora Valverde, Ferreto and Menendez. Not only are they no longer coordinating parliamentary work, but anybody can see that they hardly exchange greetings.

Ardon's Plea

There were evident factors that made the split obvious: The tone of greetings, the defense of positions, the signatures on motions and even the use of different offices in the assembly building. All of this led to speculation.

However, it was Ardon who revealed this. Over the weekend he sent a note to the assembly secretaries asking that whenever they issue a report "on projects that are approved or disapproved, you clearly establish what the final vote was of the various factions; otherwise, the absence of this necessary clarification could lead to confusion."

The note adds: "I insist on the need to establish the differences between the representatives of the PVP (the Communist Party) and myself as a representative of the MRP. Since the United People's Coalition does not have any real representation in this legislative assembly, I beg you to always keep these observations in mind."

Legislator Eduardo Mora Valverde said in this regard: "Deputy Ardon obviously has the right to act that way. We respect his position." But, Mora added, of course we regret that Companero Ardon does not coordinate his parliamentary activities with our PVP.

Mora noted: "This does not mean that relations between our two parties have gone sour and much less that there has been a break." Mora was asked: Then, what do you call this? He answered by laughing heartily.

EL SALVADOR

POLICE RAID TRANSPORTATION UNION'S OFFICES

PA131931 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 12 Aug 82 pp 4,33

[Excerpts] The Treasury Police have raided the offices of the National Transportation Industry, Similar and Related Workers Union in this capital. According to the official report, "abundant communist propaganda" was found.

Yesterday the Treasury Police released the following communique:

"In strict compliance with the laws of the republic and in response to reports by patriotic freedom, peace and work-loving individuals who told this security organization that communist propaganda, specifically FMLN propaganda, was stored and printed in the offices of the National Transportation Industry, Similar and Related Workers Union, our special units went to that union's offices located on No 1215 10th South Avenue (San Salvador). Abundant communist propaganda was found within, thus confirming the truthfulness of the reports. The following individuals were arrested in the offices: Maximiliano Castro Navas, Hector Lopez Rivas, Gabriel Argueta, Jorge Benjamin Rodriguez Duenas, Marta Imelda Dimas and Alejandro Martinez, all union employees and members.

"The general directorate of the Treasury Police blames the members of the union's board of directors for these actions. The police have mounted a special search for these individuals. After having them appear before newsmen, the individuals arrested at the union headquarters will be turned over to the military arraigning judge to be tried in accordance with the law."

As for the seized items, the Treasury Police report that they included a mimeograph machine; 19 9-mm cartridges, one of them for a G-3; several pamphlets entitled "On the Military Solution in El Salvador," several editions of the Managua newspaper BARRICADA; several pamphlets on world solidarity with the Revolutionary Democratic Front Mexico-France; several pamphlets entitled "Military Development and Insurrectional Prospects in El Salvador," and other subversive pamphlets and leaflets.

POLICE ARREST ENTIRE ANDES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PA150044 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0009 GMT 15 Aug 82

[Text] San Salvador, 14 Aug (ACAN-EFE) -- Professor Ana Lidia Escalante de Serrano, the wife of Deputy Education Minister Roberto Serrano Alfaro, was arrested today along with 21 other teachers and charged with cooperating with the Salvadoran guerrillas. According to military reports, the professors were meeting at the FRG school in this capital when they were arrested by members of the Treasury Police.

The official sources said that the arrested teachers have ties with the People's Liberation Forces [FDL] Central Committee and that they were meeting to plan the subversive activities to be carried out in August.

According to members of the National Association of Salvadoran Teachers, ANDES, all of the members of their board of directors were arrested; they also said that only labor issues were being discussed at the meeting.

Nine girl students at the school were with the teachers at the meeting. They are also being held at the Treasury Police offices, but will be turned over to their relatives.

The teachers will be presented to newsmen tomorrow, Sunday, at Treasury Police headquarters in San Salvador.

Professors 'Admit' Subversion

PA152027 Paris AFP in Spanish 1929 GMT 15 Aug 82

[Text] San Salvador, Aug 15 (AFP) -- A police spokesman today said that some of the professors who were recently arrested in a northeast San Salvador school have admitted participation in "subversive" activities.

Today the authorities presented the arrested professors to the news media. The prisoners were not allowed to make a statement.

A large amount of propaganda, pamphlets, posters and flags of the People's Liberation Forces (FPL) were exhibited. The FPL is a guerrilla organization that belongs to the FMLN.

The official spokesman said that the school's principal, Ana Lidia de Serrano, the wife of the deputy education minister, has signed a document admitting that FPL propaganda was found in her handbag. It has been reported that most of the professors denied that they are involved in these activities but have been unable to explain their presence in the school and the possession of subversive material.

According to the official report, the professors belong to the Salvadoran Communist Party and are FPL militants. For this reason, they will be arraigned before a military judge, since this case, which does not involve a common crime, will be handled by the military courts.

According to the spokesman, some documents that were seized in the school are being studied, "and much valuable information will be obtained from this." The alleged FPL cell was apparently preparing "subversive" activities to be carried out this month, August, in order to hinder the celebration of the Central American independence anniversary on 15 September, the authorities said.

SALVADORAN SOLIDARITY FRONT TO MEET 4 SEP

PA160409 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 11 Aug 82 p 4

[By Edgard Barbarena S. of the AGENCIA NUEVA NICARAGUA]

[Text] In view of the threat of the possible regionalization of war in Central America as a result of the Reagan administration's war mongering policy toward El Salvador, the World Front for Solidarity with El Salvador will meet in Managua on 4 September to decide on immediate actions to counter those aggressive plans.

The meeting of the Front's Permanent Bureau is being held in accordance with the agreements adopted in its second meeting, held in Mexico on 29 May, which was attended by representatives from Europe, Africa, the United States and Latin America. The participants in that meeting denounced the open U.S. intervention in the Salvadoran war.

The members of the Permanent Bureau, who are also members of the organization's Executive Secretariat, are Bill Zimmerman, president; Andres Fabregas, Executive Secretariat coordinator; Lucia Pavletich; Heidi Tarver; Willie Rosembos; Ulf Vaver Karner; Enrique Colon; and the secretary general of the Nicaraguan Committee of Solidarity with Peoples (CNSP).

The World Front for Solidarity with El Salvador was established on 27 March. On that occasion, the Nicaraguan delegate offered the delegations an explanation of Nicaragua's peaceful position in facing the current Central American situation.

The next meeting which will be held at the CNSP offices in Managua, will establish the working guidelines for the committees of solidarity with El Salvador throughout the world and will plan new action to stop the U.S. aggression, which is an effort to regionalize the Salvadoran conflict.

Each member of the World Front's Permanent Bureau works in his own country with the support of mass, union and progressive organizations in each country to promote the work of solidarity and the denunciation of Washington's maneuvers against the Central American isthmus, particularly the attacks on Nicaragua.

The Permanent Bureau of the World Front of Solidarity currently has 18 members who work to achieve international isolation of the current Salvadoran Government run by Alvaro Magana and the military, and to show the world the advances achieved by the revolution in El Salvador.

The World Front for Solidarity with El Salvador also disseminates the proposals of the FMLN and the Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR) and works to emphasize the fact that a solution to the conflict without the participation of these forces, which represent the Salvadoran people, is impossible.

The Permanent Bureau also plans to denounce the possibility of a mass U.S. intervention in Central America and to warn the governments about this U.S. maneuver, which would endanger the lives of 20 million Central Americans.

MULTIPARTY MISSION REPORTS ON U.S. TOUR

PA141950 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2146 GMT 13 Aug 82

[Text] San Salvador, 13 Aug (ACAN-EFE) -- The misinformation campaign launched against El Salvador in the United States has been offset, Francisco Quinonez Avila, secretary general of the Salvadoran Popular Party, PPS, announced today in a phone conversation from the United States.

Quinonez Avila is a member of a mission of representatives of political organizations who have gone to Washington and other U.S. cities to meet with senators, congressmen, and U.S. union leaders in an effort to disseminate information about realities in El Salvador, where the government and the leftist forces are at war.

Salvadoran Foreign Minister Fidel Chavez Mena, a member of the Christian Democratic Party, accompanied the politicians, who have urged U.S. senators and congressmen to support the economic and military aid their country needs.

According to Quinonez Avila, the delegation's visit is the first step taken after the signing of the Apaneca political agreement by the representatives of four political parties on 3 August. The agreement was proposed by President Alvaro Magana.

Quinonez Avila added that many U.S. representatives oppose continuation of Washington's economic and military support for El Salvador because the leftist "Revolutionary Democratic Front's," [FDR], campaign of misinformation is strong in the United States.

He underscored that the FDR has powerful "misinformation" machinery and presents only the negative aspects of the Salvadoran situation in an effort to prove to the U.S. public that they represent the Salvadoran people.

According to the PPS leader, U.S. cooperation with El Salvador must be all-encompassing, since El Salvador needs both aid to bring about economic reactivation and military aid, because "as long as subversion continues to destroy the infrastructure, the country cannot pull through."

The delegation explained that the present Salvadoran Government wants to consolidate social reforms and full respect for human rights.

Quinonez Avila said that these factors and a lack of social justice worry certain U.S. sectors about El Salvador. An example of this is the murder of four U.S. nuns in December 1980. Eight Salvadoran national guardsmen are currently in custody in connection with this crime.

He then stressed that the political parties' delegation, composed of members of the political parties represented in the Constituent Assembly, has visited the United States "without compromising the country's freedom and independence."

This afternoon the group will return to San Salvador, where they will provide details about their talks with the U.S. authorities and other representatives.

VENCEREMOS SCORES GOVERNMENT LABOR PRACTICES

PA161708 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Text] In the midst of the deep crisis affecting the country, the fascist government guarantees to rich exploiters that they will continue getting richer. It does this by approving decrees and laws that violate the most elemental rights of the working majority, which is condemned to endure inhuman living conditions and is threatened by hunger and misery.

Together with legal sanctions, the fascist regime continues using the most brutal repressive measures to stop the organization and struggle of the workers. Today's searchers for and murders of labor union leaders and militants, the sacking and closing of labor union offices, the jailing of leaders and the taking over by the military of work centers would excite the envy of the Molina Romero dictatorships.

There are daily repressive actions against the workers. The most elemental labor rights are violated, and this makes it evident that Garcia and D'Aubuisson are making efforts to disband and make illegal the organizations of the workers, the peasants and the municipal public and private employees. To do this, they create the pretext that the labor unionists are terrorists, that labor union offices are used to store communist propaganda and arms, that labor unions are printshops for the FMLN and many other lies.

Who is going to believe these accusations at a time when our people are enduring the bloodiest dictatorship in the country's history, when at the slightest sign of opposition to the government, the offender is silenced by being put in jail, tortured or killed?

Here is a recent example of proof that plans to destroy the labor movement go on despite statements about democratization and a search for peace. On Monday, 9 August, at approximately 1600, many treasury policemen attacked the headquarters of the National Union of Workers of the Transport, similar and Related Industries in San Salvador's San Jacinto neighborhood. After destroying files, documents and other materials of the labor union, the henchmen took all the union's funiture and equipment. They also took membership lists and important documents belonging to the transport workers. (Maximiliano Navas), (Gabriel Argueta), (Jorge Rodriguez), (Hector Rocas), (Alejandro Martinez), and Mrs (Marta Guillen de Rivas), the labor union's secretary, were arrested. After threatening and beating them, the Treasury Police tied them and then took them to Treasury Police headquarters.

Two days later, the workers were arraigned before a military judge on charges of storing and reproducing FMLN propaganda and of being in possession of 19 magnum [words indistinct] cartridges [words indistinct].

It must be noted that the workers have demanded an end to all kinds of repression. They also demand respect for the rights of the labor organization and that political and labor leaders be released. But the answer of the dictatorship has been to arrest the transport workers' leaders and to close and eliminate their labor union.

However, the efforts of fascism to scare and stop the workers is now facing a labor movement that is strengthening its labor organization, that is increasing its struggle to secure its just demands, and that is clandestinely joining the workers' committees, certain of definite victory.

Unity and solidarity from the labor movement for the release of the transport workers union!

Against searches, against the closing of labor unions!

The workers on a war footing for the right to organize!

GUATEMALA

MATHEU, NICARAGUAN TRADE MINISTER DESCRIBE TALKS

PA141716 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 13 Aug 82

[Interview with Nicaraguan Foreign Trade Minister Alejandro Martinez and Guatemalan Economy Minister Julio Matheu by news director (Mario Tabiz Garcia) during "Here's the World" newscast -- live]

[Text] [Tabiz Garcia] The economy ministers of the five Central American countries met in San Salvador today and promised to take steps to reactivate the Central American Common Market [CACM]. Julio Matheu of Guatemala, Gustavo Alfaro of Honduras, Alejandro Martinez of Nicaragua, Marco Lopez of Costa Rica and Jose Manuel Pacas of El Salvador issued a resolution calling for the reactivation of the CACM and agreed to establish several commissions to study specific economic problems of the region. Tonight, as a scoop of this program, we have guests Nicaraguan Foreign Trade Minister Alejandro Martinez and Guatemalan Economy Minister Julio Matheu who arrived from San Salvador today.

During tonight's dialogue, we will learn details of the meeting in San Salvador as well as our guests' opinion on the possibility for a common market in Central America, including a nation like Sandinist Nicaragua. During these talks, we will only refer to operational aspects of the CACM, the trade exchange between Guatemala and Nicaragua and the ministers' opinions on the future of trade relations between the two countries. We have decided not to discuss political and economic topics which are sources of conflict in an effort to not commit the Nicaraguan minister and to avoid polemics.

I want to ask the Guatemalan minister: How would you summarize the results of the ministerial meeting in San Salvador?

[Matheu] Fortunately, after 18 months of not meeting, the Central American ministers gave one another a very warm reception. In addition, when we discussed the CACM subject we found that the five ministers want to make every effort to reactivate it. I believe that the results of this meeting can be summarized in what we said in the resolution signed by the five ministers. It says: Aware that the program for Central American integration continues to be an important instrument to promote the development of the regional economy, we reiterate our firm decision to contribute with every necessary effort to strengthening the bases that permit the development of a complete subregional integration.

I believe that it is important to stress that in the first resolution we said the following: We will make every effort to reactivate the CACM, avoiding, as much as possible, the adoption of unilateral measures that affect or may affect the current trade patterns established among our territories within a healthy and fair intraregional competition. Therefore, the ministers responsible for the Central American integration will meet at least once a month for the remainder of this year in order to discuss the present and future problems of the CACM. In the event that a minister can't attend a meeting, he can appoint a deputy minister to represent him. The meeting will maintain its ministerial rank as long as it is attended by at least three of the five ministers. In addition, we also agreed that the ministers responsible for Central American economic integration will promote and hold [word indistinct] joint meetings with the Central American Monetary Council to seek solutions for the problems of payment which we have been facing. In fact, we devoted half of today's meeting to jointly meeting with the presidents of the Central American central banks who were also holding their monthly meeting in San Salvador. We also noted that the ministers' meeting could appoint commissions or work groups to analyze specific economic problems with the technical assistance of the permanent secretariat created by the general treaty for Central American integration.

Therefore, I feel that after not meeting for 18 months, we have done very well because we reached practical conclusions to fully begin a phase where we will fully tackle the problems which we must analyze to reactivate the CACM and clearly define the ways in which we are going to meet every month from now on. This is a step forward and an achievement which demonstrates the good will of the five countries to reactivate the CACM.

[Tabiz Garcia] The presence of a Nicaraguan foreign trade minister in this meeting demonstrates Nicaragua's interest in a common market. How far will this interest go?

[Martinez] We have been maintaining our integrationist attitude ever since the victory and the change of government in Nicaragua in 1979. We began putting this attitude into practive right after 19 July 1979 thus reflecting the true interest of our people and government in continuing to maintain integration as an important tool for the development of our countries. Our presence in El Salvador today reaffirms this honest and frank feeling which Nicaragua and its people have to continue use the instrument of integration as an instrument of support for the policies of development which we must use. Nicaragua is only reiterating this feeling. It is nothing new. We are only confirming what we've said in words with concrete actions such as our presence in El Salvador. We are therefore confirming that integration is an instrument which should not be rejected just because it faced difficulties. On the contrary, it is the only alternative we have to confront the economic problems we are all facing in this area. These problems are not only political but are highly economic in origin. We can't confront the challenge our people are facing alone.

[Tabis Garcia] How are Guatemalan products treated by Nicaragua?

[Martinez] We have continued to abide by the general free trade treaty with Guatemala. Years ago we had established quotas for some products like textiles, shoes and clothing. However, we have been gradually lifting some of these restrictions, which were imposed long before the change of government of 1979. We have tried to realistically utilize the market as an important means to meet the supply needs of our people.

I would now like to tell the Guatemalan people -- the listeners of Radio-Television Guatemala, which has so kindly invited us to participate in this program -- that, without doubt, Nicaragua continues to be the most important client in Central America because it is the largest importer of Central American goods. Despite our efforts at reactivation, we can affirm that, in the case of Guatemala, our trade continues to be highly favorable to Guatemala's interests. We are aware that in carrying out this integrated trade -- the volume of which is above $1 billion -- we must have quick consultation mechanisms and hold the necessary dialogues among the partners in order for this business to continue being beneficial and fruitful to all parties concerned.

[Tabiz Garcia] How are Nicaraguan goods treated here in Guatemala?

[Matheu] We are currently alloving Nicaraguan products to enter Guatemala freely. A few days ago, when I visited my colleague in Managua, I told him that we were going to adopt some measures with regard to some products but that we would be quite willing to lift them after we talked. We have already begun our talks and have discussed some differences in the manner in which each country is handling the purchases and sales of merchandise to and from the other. This refers mainly to import permits, payment methods and the quotas which, as minister Martinez mentioned, Nicaragua has had for a long time.

However, based on our talks thus far and in view of the cordiality with which my colleague has offered to discuss them, I see no reason why we cannot agree by tomorrow on a formula to trade our products with utmost reciprocity and equitability. This would strengthen the bases of the CACM, as we both said today during the meeting in El Salvador.

[Tabiz Garcia] Speaking of actual facts, there is a problem which is a great source of concern to Guatemala; Nicaragua's debt to Guatemala. Do you think it possible that this debt may be paid in the near future?

[Martinez] Well, as a matter of fact, the presidents of the Nicaraguan and Guatemalan central banks have held several rounds of talks with a view to reaching an agreement on the documentation of all outstanding debts. I wish to state and to reassert that Nicaragua has already refinanced its entire foreign debt; that it has fully met all of the obligations it has renegotiated; that, as in the case of the entire international community, its obligations with Guatemala will be faithfully met, and that it is now in the process of documenting all of these obligations. Therefore, to answer your question, we are working on this matter.

[Tabiz Garcia] The Central American economy ministers have met in El Salvador. Do you think that an active trade between Nicaragua and the other nations on the isthmus can be maintained?

[Martinez] I would reverse the question. Why think that this can't be so? Practice has demonstrated the contrary. I think that 3 years have provided enough statistics to prove it. The Central American economic groups which export goods to Nicaragua know perfectly well that there is a great possibility that their sales to Nicaragua may boom. To mention some figures, we purchased $700 million in Central America from 1979 to 1981 only. Part of this remains to be paid but, as I said in the case of Guatemala, the debts are being documented.

However, a large part of this sum has already been paid. But the business which Nicaragua has given to Central America has not been reciprocated. At no time have we said that we demand reciprocity because we are aware of the fact that our national policy is geared toward meeting needs which may be different from those of other countries. We respect and will continue to respect the decisions other countries adopt to suit their own interests. Nicaragua reasserts that it is an important client. However, in answer to your question, I would say that I see no reason why Nicaragua, a country which is undergoing a revolution, cannot be a perfect and excellent client in Central America.

I would like to stress that today's meeting in El Salvador must not be viewed as an isolated event or a reaction, a very passionate reaction on the part of the ministers or governments we represent. Rather, it reflects, in fact, a deep concern that any violation of the intergration setup may be catastrophic. Twenty-seven years of integration have proved that our peoples must remain united in the economic and trade fields without regard to any difficulties, differences, complications or ideological differences in regards to the policies which each one of our countries is entitled to maintain and uphold.

I believe, and assert, that the action Guatemala took several days ago -- rather, 3 weeks ago -- was a way of saying it intended to violate this setup and that it was this action which led the ministers to sit at the negotiating table today. It made us realize there is no other alternative to integration and that we must negotiate regardless of whatever political differences we may have in order to keep avenues open for this trade to remain fluid and to allow our businesses to continue operating and their employees to continue working, earning a salary and having an opportunity to really contribute to the development of their own countries.

Because of this worrisome realization that Central America has no other alternative, we have met today in Guatemala with the presidents of the central banks in an effort to find a tangible solution to the trouble with the payments, which is one of the problems we have faced in the economic sphere.

[Tabiz Garcia] You are going to meet tomorrow to establish the foundations for trade. Basically, what are Guatemala's intentions?

[Matheu] Fundamentally, we are going to review some small matters that we have treated differently -- that is, the way in which goods reach our respective countries. Primarily, we wish to establish a system, as we have already done with El Salvador and Costa Rica, to which businessmen themselves can resort whenever differences arise. In this way differences can be settled, instead of piling up until the Central American economy ministers meet. We can also keep the negotiating table ready and free of bilateral trade problems and, at the same time, keep the trade between our two countries as active as possible.

[Martinez] I would like to add something to what the Guatemalan economy minister has just said. Certainly, the bilateral talks we will be holding tomorrow will not serve in any way to set aside the agreement we reached this afternoon; the bilateral agreement to keep multilateral channels for consultation open. The agreement we intend to conclude tomorrow will complement this decision, because we know that in its implementation the handling of daily problems may be often unnecessarily delayed. We know that if we have an executive mechanism like the one we seek to create through this joint Nicaraguan-Guatemalan commission, we will be able to overcome some of the problems and obstacles that have arisen daily in our bilateral trade.

I would also like to take advantage of this opportunity to say that we have all contributed to the culmination of these efforts today in El Salvador, as well as to a future continuation of these efforts. In Nicaragua, we took the position of calling a meeting 2 weeks ago, which could not be held because of various problems. However, Guatemala made a great effort to point out that if we were to reject the CACM, or the multilateral method, we would have to return to a bilateral system. This intense effort by Guatemala bore fruit and I would now like to tell Minister Matheu that we are glad to have contributed, within our limitations, to the convocation of today's meeting, which must not be our only one. These meetings must continue. The next one will be held in Nicaragua. In it, we must achieve more tangible progress than we have achieved today, through a statement of principles. Both Guatemala and Nicaragua have demonstrated to the Central American and international communities that we want to serve the interests of the Central American community. As we have already said, this five-nation community has had positive, tangible results in its 27 years in existence. Its trade volume exceeds $2 billion. This volume of business is so substantial that its importance must be acknowledged. Recognition of this fact has taken shape through the efforts and enthusiasm demonstrated by Guatemala and Nicaragua.

NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT REACTION TO ARRESTS

PA170154 Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Text] Sources close to Mario Sandoval Alarcon, the top leader of the National Liberation Movement, MLN, have announced that he will hold a press conference some time this week to give his view of some of the actions that have been taken against MLN members in this capital and other towns.

The MLN issued a communique in which it explained that only two of the people arrested over the weekend belong to the organization, noting that the rest are members of the Nationalist Authentic Central, CAN, and the Popular Democratic Front, FDP, which supported Gen Angel Anibal Guevara's presidential candidacy.

As for Leonel Sisniega Otero, the MLN's vice presidential candidate in the last elections, the movement indicated that the sooner his case is resolved the better, while also stating that if he is guilty of anything, he should face the charges.

No one seems to know where he is, however. The authorities have been trying to locate him since last weekend.

HONDURAS

ALVAREZ COMMENTS ON CONCLUSION OF JOINT EXERCISE

PA161535 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 16 Aug 82 p 13

[By Pedro Beltran]

[Excerpt] Approximately 30,000 inhabitants of La Mosquita in Gracias a Dios Department, as well as 12,000 Nicaraguan refugees, can feel protected from the Sandinist incursions that have been reported and the abuses they may be subjected to by bands opposed to the Nicaraguan Government.

This became evident this weekend when Gen Gustavo Alvarez Martinez, chief of the Honduran Armed Forces, visited Puerto Lempira at the conclusion of the joint maneuvers held by the Honduran and U.S. Armies.

"It is possible that there are bands that oppose the FSLN government, but we can't control them," General Alvarez Martinez said, noting that the Honduran Government is making every possible effort to eradicate these evil bands that are allegedly operating from our country.

This shows the armed forces' determination to control any armed action that compromises our sovereignty in the area, whether it is started by the "counterrevolutionaries" or the Sandinists, because according to the Honduran peace proposal any warmongering act is condemned by our government.

The transfer of the "Pumas" of the 5th Battalion to that sector, with the participation of the U.S. military personnel, was completed this weekend with the departure of the "Marines" to their country.

Approximately 700 Honduran soldiers will remain in Mocoron, Dursuna sector. They and the "sappers" of the engineer battalion will be involved in social and productive tasks for the benefit of Misquito residents, who did not receive the benefits of modern life during previous administrations.

SECURITY CHIEF ON CHANCE OF WAR WITH NICARAGUA

PA162253 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Text] Col Daniel Bali Castillo, general commander of the Honduran Public Security Forces, said over the weekend that Nicaragua's internecine problems may lead to a war with Honduras, as this could be used by the Sandinists to obtain their people's support.

The high-ranking officer said that the Sandinist government is trying to create an armed conflict to divert attention from the problems caused by armed opposition inside its territory, adding that this strategy is already in motion.

Bali Castillo said that each time the Sandinist army is attacked by Nicaraguans who are opposed to its administration, the likelihood of a war with our country increases. The senior military officer said, on the other hand, that the Sandinist government would not engage in a confrontation with Costa Rica, because such an act would lack international credibility.

Bali Castillo noted that there is little chance of maintaining cordial relations between Honduras and Nicaragua as long as the Nicaraguan Government faces armed opposition inside its own territory, as the Sandinists will always be looking for a way to distract the people's attention.

ARMED FORCES BUDGET TO REMAIN UNCHANGED

PA160450 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 10 Aug 82 p 4

[Text] The budget for the Honduran Armed Forces next year will be 90,307,600 lempiras, the same amount as that originally approved by the National Constituent Assembly in 1980. This was confirmed by Gen Gustavo Alvarez Martinez, chief of the armed forces, who indicated that, as a result of the government's economic crisis, he will have to adhere to the "austerity" measures necessitated by our economy.

The officer said that the high command's acceptance of the same budget for 3 consecutive years demonstrates the military authorities' peaceful spirit. Alvarez Martinez added there is no desire to compete in the arms race, because technology is a necessity and because the country has more fundamental priorities such as health, education, housing, etc.

He indicated that "it would be a mistake to be permanently subjected to achieving a balance of military forces because our underdeveloped countries, which are in a process of economic activation, would have to set aside their public service programs to do so."

TEACHERS DECLARE STRIKE, APPEAL TO MILITARY

PA161929 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Excerpts] The confrontation between the government and the teachers entered its most critical stage today. The leaders of the Honduran Teachers Unity Front [FUMH] declared an indefinite strike today, and no one knows when it will end.

However, the most outstanding aspect of the prolongation of the conflict between the teachers and the government is the fact that the teachers have now appealed to the Honduran Army high command to mediate the conflict in a bid to stir the pride of the president of the republic. By asking the armed forces high command to intervene, the teachers' leaders are hinting before the Honduran people that the military continues to give the orders in this country, and that even though Honduras is being governed by a constitutional regime, the military is more willing to solve this type of problem.

(Aldubin Diaz), president of the Association of High School Teachers of Honduras and high-ranking FUMH representative, said that the teachers will appeal to the Honduran Armed Forces high command to ask it to mediate with the government and obtain a positive solution to this conflict, which has lasted several months. Nothing is known about the possible reaction of the government to this new attitude of the teachers, who, breaking the chain of institutional authority, have appealed to the military to intervene and call the president's attention to their case.

COMMENTARY NOTES FRENCH CLARIFICATION ON ARMS

PA170240 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Station commentary: "The Advantages in French Arms Sales to Us"]

[Text] Almost hysterically, French Ambassador Andre Brun has hastened to explain that the statements he made about his country's arms sales to Central American countries were misrepresented by a newsman, who presented them as he saw fit. The reporter indicated that Brun had said that his government, which is now socialist, would no longer sell arms to the Central American countries, when what the honorable diplomat said was in fact exactly the opposite; that France was indeed willing to continue arms sales to Central America.

Ambassador Brun's hysteria is almost pathetic. France, previously capitalist and now socialist, is no different from the gringos and the imperialist Russians. Its economy also relies on the deadly weapons that it can sell to our small nations when they get involved in wars and conflicts over disagreements.

Many Honduran sectors, including newsmen like myself, have been arguing that countries like ours, which are in a calamitous condition and are weak economically, must not spend their limited resources on arms. Once, when General Paz Garcia, the former head of state, made a public appearance on television following his return from a tour of the United States, we told him that resources obtained through loans should not be used to buy weapons, and that our country should not accept credit that involves a commitment to purchase arms.

This opposition to the purchase of weapons, which does not reflect political interests, is not the same as that expressed by some of our country's political sectors. We keep hearing from organized groups that express solidarity with El Salvador or Nicaragua and that criticize the Honduran arms purchases from the United States. Does this mean that U.S. weapons are the only ones that are damned, the only armes capable of breeding war and human extermination? Does this mean that the sale of weapons by France or any other socialist country must receive our blessings because they are going to a specific country -- Nicaragua, for example?

We don't want to condemn the French ambassador's statement. We have no intention of doing so. He can only voice the policy of the government he represents. France is a country with modern weapons and it has offered its products to the Latin American market. This is why he hastens to clarify the misinterpretation that one newspaper made of his statement. France has not decided to suspend arms sales. On the contrary, France will continue to sell weapons to Central American countries.

We should not be surprised at Ambassador Brun's statement that France will continue to be an arms supplier. In fact, the big powers, whether capitalist or socialist, are making their best deals through a war economy. It doesn't matter if it is the United States, the United Kingdom, France or Russia. There is no difference among them, in terms of their effort to increase the arms market, so as to sell more of their deadly products; and their favorite markets are the troubled nations. We, the small countries, believe that our national security and the strengthening of our grandeur require that we arm ourselves to the teeth. The more internal problems we have in the countries of this isthmus, the more attractive we will be to the big powers that produce the weapons and that base their revenues on a war economy. Thus, we understand the urgent need for the French ambassador's explanation. It would have meant risking his position not to have done so. He might have lost it if it had been understood that France was not going to sell any more weapons to the Central American countries, when the truth is that, now more than ever, this country wants the world to know that it is receiving large orders for the sale of its best and most deadly weapons.

Meanwhile, here in Honduras, the Committee of Solidarity with the World will continue to condemn the purchase of U.S. weapons. And what of the French weapons? When will we hear at least one person whisper some criticism of these fantastic weapons that the French are offering us?

NICARAGUA

STUDENTS PROTEST 'AGGRESSION' AGAINST OBANDO

PA162008 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1931 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Text] Managua, 16 Aug (ACAN-EFE) -- Groups of unidentified persons and Catholic high school students of this capital today staged distubances in the school buildings.

The incidents started at "La Asuncion" school, located south of Managua, where several youths were beaten by unknown persons who broke into the school.

Apparently the young girls were attacked when they protested an aggression attempted against the archbishop of Managua, Msgr Miguel Obando y Bravo, last Saturday at the Magdalena church in the Indian community of Monimbo, in the city of Masaya.

Students of the Pedagogical Institute who supported the girls from "La Asuncion" school also took part in the disturbances.

The police went to the schools where the incidents took place but did not intervene, limiting themselves to keeping order in the surrounding area.

Students of the Pedagogical Institute told ACAN-EFE that they were attacked by groups of unidentified persons who arrived at the school, blocking their way out.

Disruptions in Catholic Schools

PA170406 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2214 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Text] Managua, 16 Aug (ACAN-EFE) -- The Nicaraguan Education Ministry expressed disapproval today of the paralysis of Catholic high schools in Managua and Masaya, apparently in protest over attacks on the church hierarchy staged by government sectors.

Disturbances and incidents between students and unidentified attackers took place at four high schools in Managua (the Teacher's Institute, El Teresiano, La Asuncion and El Calasanz).

Meanwhile, today the National Federation of Catholic Teachers (FENEC) denounced "the repeated acts of disrespect for the Catholic hierarchy, as represented in the persons of our pastors."

It protested "the gross offense" to Father Bismarck Carballo, director of Radio Catolica and spokesman for the archbishopric, who was mentioned in an alleged scandal of passion, which he was denied and described as a "show" intended to discredit him.

During the disturbances, the police arrested Manuel Estrada Carpintero, director of the Teacher's Institute, and Jose Moratalla, a priest who is a teacher at the Salesian high school in Masayo, 30 km east of the capital. They are both Spanish citizens.

Education authorities blamed the directors and professors of the Catholic schools for suspending classes, which led to the disturbances in which several adolescents were injured.

The Education Ministry, which described the suspension as a "provocative action," has appointed two commissions to investigate the events.

Detained Priest Released

PA170426 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0137 GMT 17 Aug 82

[Text] Managua, 16 Aug (ACAN-EFE) -- Spanish Christian Brother Manuel Estrada Carpintero, principal of Managua's Pedagogic Institute, was released by the police today after having been held for several hours.

According to reliable reports, Brother Estrada Carpintero was not interrogated and was treated well at the police offices.

As soon as the Spanish Embassy in Managua found out about his arrest, it began trying to secure his release.

Nicaraguan authorities, including Acting Foreign Minister Victor Tinoco, told Spanish Ambassador Mariano Baselga that the principal was only "retained" and not arrested.

However, according to reports, Father Jose Moratalla remains under arrest. He is the principal of Masaya's Salesian school and it seems that he was accused of burning a Sandinist flag.

Incidents occurred today at Managua's Pedagogic Institute as well as at Masay's Salesian school between students and progovernment demonstrators, who were demanding that classes continue at the Catholic schools.

School principals are meeting tonight to discuss the future of classes at these private schools run by clergymen.

BARRICADA CITES RESOLUTION ON POPE'S LETTER

PA162225 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 11 Aug 82 p 9

[Text of resolution issued in Managua on 10 August 1982 by the Nicaraguan Interior Ministry's Communications Media Directorate]

[Text] 1. In view of the maneuvers by which certain sectors, whose intentions are well known, have been using the letter that His Holiness John Paul II sent to the Nicaraguan Episcopate; and as this is taking place at a time when our people are facing a grave attack promoted by imperialism, manifested in such painful events as the massacres of our brothers in San Francisco del Norte and Zelaya Norte and in the many bloody armed incursions into our territory;

2. And in view of the fact that an effort was being made to use this letter as a counter-revolutionary tool, regardless of its true intentions, the Communications Media Directorate decided that the publication of this letter would be unsuitable, as it could create a controversy that might divide the Nicaraguan family at a time when counterrevolutionary hostility is increasing.

3. However, despite this effort, obvious manipulation has taken place, in that this letter has been distributed, in a biased way, both here and abroad, with the result that his holiniess' justified concern has been belittled because the letter makes no reference to the San Francisco del Norte massacre, perpetrated "in the name of God and of anticommunism," which hurts the Nicaraguans' Christian dignity.

4. In order to prevent further manipulation and controversy, which would damage the unity of the church and of the Nicaraguan people, so important at this crucial time, it is resolved to order the publication of the full text of the letter in all newspapers, one time only, to protect the right to information and to religious freedom guaranteed by the Sandinist people's revolution.

[Dated] Managua, 10 August 1982 [Signed] Nelba Cecilia Blandon, communications media director

BRIEFS

SPANISH WHEAT DONATION -- The Spanish Government has donated 2,000 tons of wheat to Nicaragua, which will arrive at Port Corinto at the end of August. The Spanish Embassy in Managua announced that the ship bearing the wheat is already en route. [Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 10 Aug 82 PA]

BLANCO OUTLINES ECONOMIC RECOVERY PROPOSALS

PA170006 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1948 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Text] Santo Domingo, 16 Aug (EFE) -- The economic crisis and the previous government's mistakes, which submerged the Dominican Republic in "complete material and moral bankruptcy," were noted repeatedly in Dominican President Salvador Jorge Blanco's inaugural speech. "I take office with a commitment to serve, not to take advantage of the position or to favor partisan groups, either inside or outside the Dominican Revolutionary Party. I will not seek reelection and I will uphold the principle of no reelection," Jorge Blanco said before the national congress and the representatives of 55 diplomatic missions that attended the inauguration.

Blanco, 53d president of the Dominican Republic, indicated in a draft law presented to congress today that he is prepared to punish all acts of corruption "that corrode the core of the Dominican Republic." In a 2-hour speech, the president, who begins a 4-year term today, presented the outlines of a plan to "prevent the economic bankruptcy toward which the Dominican Republic is irremediably headed." The austerity plan will immediately put an end to the "cute measures" taken by the previous government, which placed the country in its worst economic crisis in the past 50 years.

Blanco said the gross monetary reserve is in the red, that private and public foreign organizations have closed their credit portfolios to this country, that the foreign debt this year is $488 million and that he is taking on the presidency with a budget deficit of $176 million. Blanco said the three most important state agencies -- the State Sugar Council (CEA), which administers the 12 mills; the Dominican Electricity Corporation, and the Dominican State Enterprise Corporation -- are bankrupt, with debts of $80 million, $88 million and $21 million, respectively.

In addition to blaming external factors for the precarious state of the country's economy (the increase in oil prices and the decline in the prices of sugar, gold and other exports), Blanco said the Dominicans are also to blame because they were warned 1 and 1/2 years ago that they should take measures to avoid this economic chaos.

The new president promised not to dismiss government employees who have shown seriousness, competence, morality and efficiency in the performance of their duties, although he said that all wages, for both public and private sectors, will be frozen for a year. Blanco said all government employees who earn more than $300 a month will have to take a cut in pay and, teaching by example, he also said that "the salary of the president of the republic will be cut from its present level of $5,000 to $3,000."

To stimulate national production and to avoid a drain in foreign exchange, the new Dominican Government will ban the import of rice, green beans, pork and chicken. "If we cannot eat kidney beans we will eat congo beans, but no staple food will be imported," he said. The tax on urban and rural property will be increased. Moreover, a plan will be implemented to prevent tax evasion. The cost of vehicle registration will also be increased, as will the import tax on luxury items.

Despite the bankrupt situation, Blanco promised the national assembly that the Dominican peso will not be devalued. Interest rates on savings will be increased as an incentive to save and in order to prevent the flight of capital to other countries that pay more interest on deposits.

In the social and health areas, Blanco promised to take the benefits of education, health and construction to all corners of the country. A ministry of social welfare will be created and a womens directorate will be established as a department of the presidency.

In the next few days, construction of 5,000 housing units will begin, thereby creating 49,000 new jobs.

The Dominican Government, Blanco said, will devote its efforts to agrarian reform, to new settlements for peasants, to increasing exports and to promoting mining. It will also devote special efforts to the development of tourism.

Foreign Policy Goals

PA162213 Paris AFP in Spanish 1923 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Text] Santo Domingo, 16 Aug (AFP) — Behaving like a "man of America," Salvador Jorge Blanco, the new Dominican president, explained the trend and goals of his government's foreign policy today. The new government, the president said, will implement a foreign policy that will be "dynamic but moderate in its dealing with all nations that want peaceful changes, with all peoples who desire democracy, and especially with the powerful Antilles and Caribbean region."

Blanco announced that his government will promote "strong ties" with Spain, a country he defined as "our most important historical friend." With the United States, "a country that has often been seen as a danger or a threat to our Latin American fatherlands, we expect to have excellent relations," resulting in a fruitful and dignified coexistence.

Blanco referred particularly to Haiti, a country with which the Dominican Republic shares the island of Hispaniola. The president said: "Our sister Republic of Haiti can rest assured that our government will respect the sacred principle of nonintervention, because we have always personally defended it. Thus, our government will respect this policy without exception."

The president's message placed special emphasis on deepening relations with neighboring countries in the Antilles and the Caribbean, because it is not possible, he stressed, "to be Dominicans and not Antilleans. It is not possible to be aware of our future and yet isolate it from that of the Antilles." He concluded by noting that, at this time of "great political tension in the region," he alone will guide the country's foreign policy, as mandated in the Constitution.

Appoints Ministers

PA161910 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1823 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Text] Dr Salvador Jorge Blanco was sworn in this morning as the 53d president of the Dominican Republic. He has appointed the persons who will comprise his cabinet as he begins his constitutional term:

Secretary of state of the presidency	Hatuey de Camps
Administrative secretary of state of the presidency	Rafael Flores Estrella
Technical secretary of the presidency	Ramon Albuquerque
Secretary of state for:	
Foreign relations	Jose Augusto Vega Imbert
Industry and commerce	Jose del Carmen Marcano
Finance	Jose Rafael Abinader
Labor	Rafael Moya
Interior and police	Guillermo Rivera
Agriculture	Rafael Angeles Suarez
Public health	Amiro Perez Mera
Public works	Pedro Delgado
Sports	Luis Scheker Ortiz
Education	Ivelisse Pitras de Perez
Tourism	Rafael Subervi
Armed forces	Lt Gen Ramiro Matos Gonzalez
Without portfolio	Winston Arnaud
Attorney general	Antonio Rosario, former rector

Bernardo Vega, an economist, has been appointed governor of the Central Bank.

SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL SCORES U.S. INTERVENTIONISM

FL161151 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0605 GMT 15 Aug 82

[Excerpt] Santo Domingo, 14 Aug (NOTIMEX) -- Several representatives of the Socialist International (SI), including France, Italy and Spain, as well as democratic groups from the United States, today criticized the U.S. Senate for approving President Reagan's interventionist proposal. This occurred during a conference on Dominican democracy chaired by Pedro Ojeda Paullada in his capacity as president of the Conference of Latin American Political Parties (COPPPAL).

The political parties agreed that the measure is an attempt against democracy in Central American countries, among them Nicaragua, which sent a large delegation led by Sergio Ramirez Mercado, a member of the National Reconstruction Junta, and by Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto.

Ojeda Paullada, chairman of the National Executive Committee of the PRI of Mexico, read a draft declaration at the end of the session reporting on the meeting of solidarity with Dominican democracy. The declaration highlights the process that gave impetus to democratic forces and strengthened the people's participation, a process that has moved forward since the end of the disastrous Trujillo era to overcome problems such as hunger, illiteracy, unemployment and social insecurity, among other things.

The declaration, Ojeda Paullada said, is a pledge of active solidarity. He said the Dominican Revolutionary Party had articulated Dominican nationality and for this reason had received the support of all Latin American democrats.

Ojeda Paullada also delivered a personal message from Mexico's virtual president, Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado, to the Dominican president-elect, Salvador Jorge Blanco, expressing his congratulations and best wishes for the consolidation and success of the Dominican people's heroic efforts.

Pena Gomez Resigns

PA161934 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Text] Santo Domingo -- Jose Francisco Pena Gomez, secretary general of the Dominican Revolutionary Party, PRD, has resigned as president of the Socialist International's committee on Latin America and the Caribbean. Pena Gomez based his decision on the need to dedicate full time to his new job as mayor of Santo Domingo, to which he was elected in May's elections and which he will take over today.

Pena Gomez proposed former Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez to succeed him, but the committee has not yet made a decision.

CHILE

BRIEFS

NEW TANKER -- Santiago, 9 Aug (AFP) -- The tanker Tidepool, which the Chilean Navy purchased from Great Britain, along with another tanker, the Norfolk, is scheduled to arrive in Talcahuano Port any time now. The arrival of the ship was delayed 4 months because delivery was suspended by Great Britain so it could use the ship in the Malvinas conflict. [Paris AFP in Spanish 2209 GMT 9 Aug 82 PY]

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX -- Sergio Chaparro, director of the National Statistics Institute, has reported that the consumer price index increased by 2 percent last month. He also reported that inflation has reached 2.4 percent this year. Hikes in the prices of foodstuffs were mostly responsible for the increase in the consumer price index. [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 3 Aug 82 pp A1, A12 PY]

CURRENCY ISSUANCE -- According to a report released by the Central Bank dated 15 July, currency issuance has increased by 3.3 percent in the last 30 days. This increase has been responsible for the decline in interest rates experienced in the last couple of weeks. [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 3 Aug 82 p B1 PY]

COLOMBIA

BRIEFS

NEW SAN ANDRES INTENDANT -- Bogota, 8 Aug (LATIN-REUTER) -- President Belisario Betancur appointed Adm Jose Avendano as new intendant of San Andres today. Press circles have noted the importance of this military appointment in view of Nicaragua's claim to the islands. [Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1753 GMT 8 Aug 82 PA]

PARAGUAY

BRIEFS

ALCOHOL FUELS COMMISSION -- Decree No 8382 provides for creation of a National Commission on Alcohol Fuels (Conac), which will be in charge of controlling the quality, production and marketing of alcohol fuels. [Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 12 Aug 82 p 10 PY]

BEEF EXPORTS -- The San Antonio meat-packing plant has signed an agreement with the Nigerian Government whereby Paraguay will export 2.5 million kg of boneless beef to Nigeria, according to a report by the Paraguayan Rural Association. [Asuncion HOY in Spanish 12 Aug 82 p 8 PY]

PERU

POLICE BREAK UP TERRORIST HIDEOUT NEAR AYACUCHO

PY162208 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1915 GMT 15 Aug 82

[Text] Ayacucho, 15 Aug (TELAM) -- Police have dealt a heavy blow to the terrorists in this city by smashing a terrorist hideout. During the confrontation at least 40 subversives and six policemen were wounded. The incident took place in San Francisco de Pujas, Ayacucho, southeast of Lima, early yesterday.

According to press reports, police raided a rundown house where about 60 alleged terrorists were disguised as peasants, wearing knitted wool caps, ponchos and sandals and carrying light machineguns. When the terrorists realized they had been discovered, they confronted the police in a shootout. According to the sources, the shootout lasted more than 3 hours. The sources indicated that an undisclosed number of people with bullet wounds were arrested, while others escaped to the hills and the Andean high plateau, where they are being sought by air and land.

This may be one of the largest armed confrontations between terrorists and police since the beginning of the terrorist escalation in this country. The government is maintaining a state of emergency in three provinces of Ayacucho Department, the main focal point of the subversion.

SURINAME

REARREST OF PLOT SUSPECTS SPARKS BROAD PROTEST

FL161315 Bridgetown CANA in English 2306 GMT 15 Aug 82

[By Herman Singh]

[Excerpts] Paramaribo, Suriname, Aug 15, CANA -- Suriname's military authority -- the real seat of power here since the February 1980 coup -- is under fire from churchmen, lawyers and other influential groups for having two former soldiers re-arrested after the director of public prosecutions had ordered their release. The two ex-army officers, A. Birja and H. Dihal, are to go on trial here this week for their alleged involvement in a 11th attempt to oust the military regime. They had been freed of the same charges because of insufficient link them to the plot. [two sentences as received]

The Suriname Bar Association, one of the first organisations to condemn the military authority's action, said the re-arrest of the two men was unconstitutional. Surname's chief justice, Oscar Vander Geldt, also showed his displeasure at the army's action in a letter to the acting president. He said the military's action had undermined the role of the constitution and had dealt a hard blow to democracy in Suriname. Christians, Hindus and Moslems, grouped in the Suriname Inter-Denominational Council, said that the incident had threatened the legal security of Suriname and was contrary to a recently published decree on the rights and duties of citizens.

Suriname's policemen have also joined in the protest supporting the stand taken by the Bar Association. Trade unions, business organisations, students at the faculty of law at the University of Suriname have also voiced their opposition to the action by the army.

URUGUAY

STEPS UNDERWAY TO PROMOTE TRADE WITH USSR

PY161836 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Text] Arrangements will be made this week for future trade with the Soviet Union. To this effect, starting this afternoon the Foreign Ministry directorate for economic affairs will contact local commercial, industrial and agricultural sectors. Efforts will be made to agree on products that will be sold to the USSR in compensation for Soviet products that will be purchased by Uruguay. Tariffs and reimbursement may also be discussed. A delegation from the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Trade is due in Montevideo next weekend.

VENEZUELA

EXPORT PRICE OF RESIDUAL FUEL REDUCED BY $1

PA152219 Paris AFP in Spanish 1614 GMT 15 Aug 82

[Excerpts] Caracas, 14 Aug (AFP) -- The state-owned Venezuelan Petroleum, Inc. confirmed today that Venezuela reduced the price of its residual petroleum (fuel oil) by $1.00 per barrel to make it more competitive on the U.S. east coast. The measure affects about 180,000 barrels a day of Venezuela's oil, representing approximately 13 percent of its total petroleum exports. Demand drops during the northern summer, with a resulting drop in prices. Harsh competition from Exxon forced this Venezuelan reduction.